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style is good, the effect is marred by wordiness and repetition, of which there is a great deal.

In a volume of two hundred and ten pages there are no divisions and no chapters, which suggests the probability of there being no definite plan in the author's mind when he began to write, which impression grows as one reads. And yet when we have pointed out these glaring defects, the fact remains that we find ourselves in sympathy with much that Mr. Russell says, and with the motive and spirit of his book we are in hearty accord.

WM. A. GUERRY.

ON SOUTHERN POETRY PRIOR TO 1860. A Dissertation presented to the Faculty of the University of Virginia as a part of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. By Sidney Ernest Bradshaw, June, 1900. Richmond: The B. F. Johnson Company.

This Doctor Dissertation of one hundred and sixty-two pages will be found a useful and helpful reference work, particularly for the names, lists, and bibliographical data of verse writers and verse in the Southern States before 1860. The author has made as full use of his material as was possible, so far as it was at his command in local libraries; and his Preface is manly in stating his difficulties and wins sympathy. There is a lack of proportion in devoting nine pages to Simms and almost immediately thereafter only three to Poe. Also the Poe bibliography is relatively meager—rather curious in a student of Poe's *alma mater*, where only nine months before a worthy marble bust was unveiled to the poet's memory. After quoting two pages or more of Prof. Trent's "Life of Simms" and acknowledging great indebtedness to it, it seems a little ungracious in the writer to have a fling at his authority, with whom in all pertaining to Simms's poetic record he remains in substantial accord. For "the striking fact is that out of so large an amount of verse so little has survived in the popular mind," and "to the average reader of the present generation Simms's poetry is a thing unknown" (p. 59).

But the writer has not intended to do injustice anywhere, and has evidently been painstaking in bringing together and ordering his data. And now, having worked through these

bibliographical details and having found out where the material lies, it is to be hoped that Dr. Bradshaw, or some other sympathetic and clear-sighted student of this period, will give us the spiritual value of this verse and literature and life of the Southern people. The accumulation of data and facts is the stepping-stone to this higher interpretation of life. First, what is there, and then what is its value in itself and in expressing the spiritual interests of a people? We know that American literature as a whole can be so interpreted—Mr. Stedman's *American Anthology* is an evidence—and we believe, despite the writer's modest disclaimer (p. 8), that American literature in any of its local and personal manifestations will also yield the same spiritual secret to the sympathetic and devoted searcher. There will be found to be a relation not necessarily to the outside political march of events but to the far more delicate inner and actual life of a State and race.

*A GARDEN OF SIMPLES.* By Martha Bockée Flint. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1900. \$1.50.

This book is the work of a plant lover who has brought to its making not only an observing eye and keen appreciation, but a knowledge of plant lore gleaned from many sources. Such old worthies as Girarde and Culpepper and Lyte are made to live again, retelling in their quaint way the real or fancied excellences of plants as they knew them. Indeed, the book is a treasury of ancient fact and fancy, and tree and shrub no less than old-fashioned herbs are sympathetically set forth in its pages. Had it an index, its host of references would take many a card in the catalogue of the systematic reader, but like the old-fashioned garden of which the first essay tells there is neither order nor system, table of contents nor index, and one must tread its devious paths to learn its varied charms.

CHARLES A. KEFFER.

*COMFORT AND EXERCISE.* An Essay toward Normal Conduct. By Mary Perry King. Boston: Small, Maynard & Co. 1900. \$1.

In this nontechnical, though practical, treatise the reader is shown the advantage of a perfect, uniform cultivation of mind, body, and soul, tending to the great result of "culture